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POCAHONTAS TIMES

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JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 196

Huntersville Jail

About sixty people picnicked at the Pocahontas Camping Area on June 10 and a larger number attended the unveiling of a marker at the Huntersville Jail in memory of Editor Paul Haddock by the Pocahontas Beautiful Commission Sunday afternoon and toured the jail building.

The history of the jail was given by Mrs. Mabel Barlow as follows:

There are two old structures, one the county jail and the other a shed-like office building of brick and wood that remain to show that Huntersville served for 70 years as the county seat of Pocahontas County.

Huntersville was laid out in 1821, the year the county was formed, and from 1822 to 1891 it was the seat of government in the county. The jail

The trouble in getting the sandstone blocks is also probably the reason why the front part of the building was constructed of brick, stuccoed with mortar and then lined to resemble stone.

Inside the jail are four cells in all, the two upstairs rooms apparently having been used for the more desperate inmates as there are heavy iron rings on the floor where prisoners could be chained.

The one outside door of the jail is made of heavy criss-crossed lumber, completely studded with hand cut nails to prevent anyone from sawing out.

The old lock, 4 lb. in weight was once used to secure the doors of the old Pocahontas County Jail. It is now in the possession of Mr. C. Moore of Marlinton.

Older residents say that only one man ever escaped from the jail and he did it by tricking the jailer into his cell and

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Huntersville was laid out in 1821, the year the county was formed, and from 1822 to 1891 it was the seat of government in the county. The town had grown up around the cabin of John Bradshaw, and had become a place for hunters and trappers who came from far and near to trade pelts for supplies.

The old jail stands on land now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Nelson. The building is built of the hardest of sandstone, known as "White Medina." As for the hard "White Medina" stone in the old jail house, a favorite tale is that of a North Carolina road hand. For two whole days he and his buddy worked to drill a hole for blasting; he always maintained that at the end of the second day the drill had raised a blister on the rock as big as his fist!

The present structure is the third Pocahontas County jail; the first was a room in the

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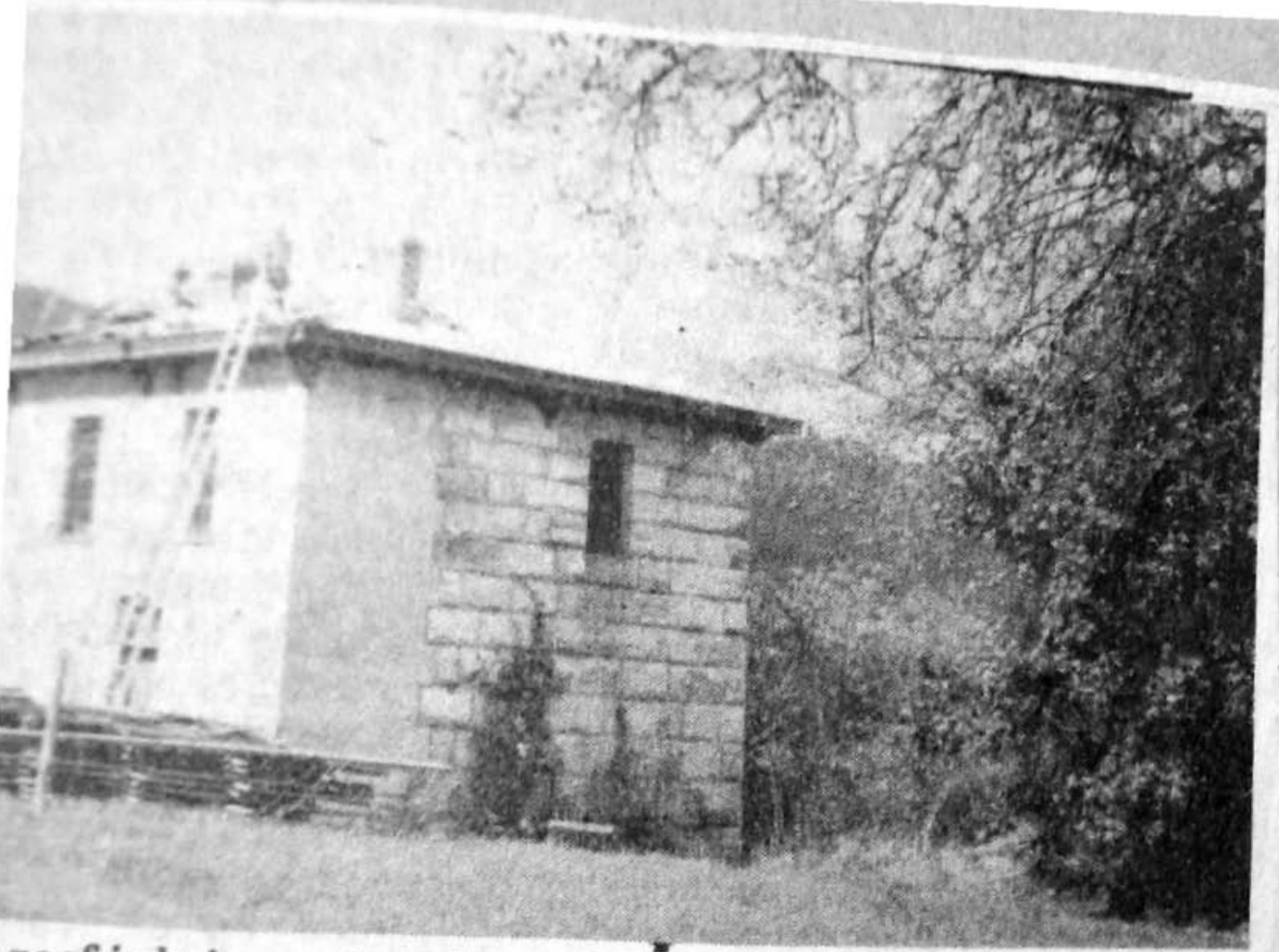
The present structure is the third Pocahontas County jail; the first was a room in the courthouse, and the second, a frame building, located near the present jail. In 1878 the County Commissoners decided to build a more modern jail.

At this time General Ben F. Butler was in the county trying to establish ownership of a large land grant which [illegible] purchased. For some reason probably having to do with the land grant, he became surety for the contractor. Due to the hardness of the White Medina sandstone, the job of cutting and sizing the blocks went much slower than planned and for this reason the building was not completed in the time specified in the contract. It is said that General Butler suffered considerable financial loss in making good his bond.

A new roof is being put on the old Huntersville Jail by Jim Morgan and Dan Daley. The Pocahontas County Historical Society selected the standing metal roof from



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ling metal roof from
Follansbee Steel Company upon the
recommendation of an architect
experienced in restoring buildings.
The metal weathers to a dull grey
and never needs painting. The
original specifications ca
"iron roof." The men
ceilings of the second
were made of 2x8's st
edge with a quarter-incl
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